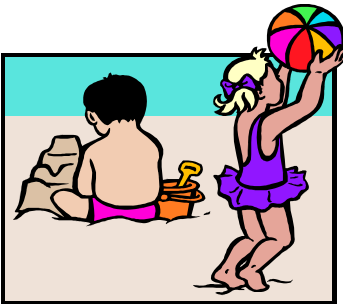




Primary Press

Beach Fun

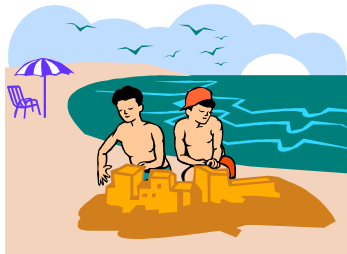


The beach is a favorite place to play for children for good reason. The sand, waves, sun and animals are all at your disposal, and what could be better for preschoolers? Whether you are in a home or school setting, there are many creative and inexpensive ways to encourage learning and exploratory play through the beach theme.



Add sun visors, sunglasses, leis, picnic baskets and beach cover ups to your dramatic play area. To your language/writing center, add beach post

cards or let children create their own on index cards. Have your preschoolers talk about action words, verbs, and things they would see or do at the beach. Flying, crashing, running, swimming, lounging and digging are all examples of beached-themed action words. Using a beach theme lesson plan is a fun way to reinforce the letter and sound of "B" with preschoolers. Ask the children what other words begin with the letter "B?"



Let your preschoolers experiment with water and the properties of floating and sinking. Have a group of items that are all right for them to get wet and help them divide the objects into two groups, those that sink and those that float. Fill a large container with water and let the children try each item and see which item

sinks and which item floats.

Give children various seashells while they are playing with play dough and point out the fossil-like patterns they can make. All different kinds of seashells, molds, small shovels and a little water can be added to your sandbox or sand table to encourage playtime activities and conversations.

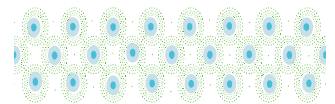
Everyone takes a picnic lunch to the beach. Why not go on your own adventure and eat your lunch outside? Have the children bring a beach towel and pack their favorite lunch in a cooler. Sit outside under an umbrella and enjoy. Have the children wear their swim suits and extend this into an afternoon of fun by turning on the sprinkler and cranking up some beach music. Even if you are not able to visit the beach you can still have tons of fun.

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County of Loudoun Family Services

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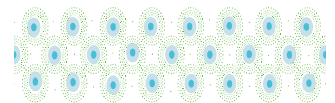
August 2010



Walk by the ocean

*Strong waves are
crashing the shore*

Footprints disappear



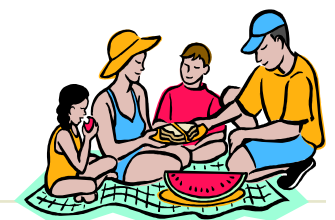
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Beach Fun



Book Corner



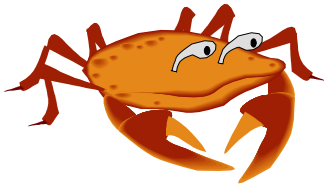
The Young Crab and His Mother

Aesop's Fable

"Why in the world do you walk sideways like that?" asked a Mother Crab to her son. "You should always walk straight forward with your toes turned out." "Show me how to walk, mother dear," answered the little crab obediently, "I want to learn." So the old crab tried and tried to walk straight forward. But she could walk sideways only, like her son. And when she wanted to turn her toes out she tripped and fell on her nose.

The moral of the story is:

Do not tell others how to act unless you can set a good example.



On the Way to the Beach

By Henry Cole

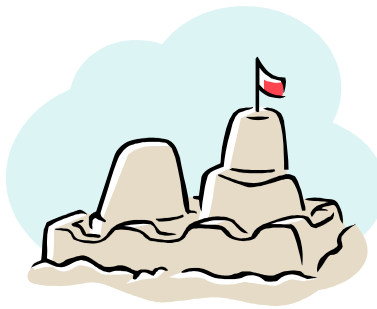
Find a place to sit and watch and listen...on the beach or in the woods or in a salt marsh. What can you see and hear?

Miranda's Beach Day

By Holly Keller

Seagulls squawking through the sky. A crab carrying his house. Miranda and her friends are building a castle out of sand.

At the end of the day at the beach, the seagulls go back to their nests, the crab goes back to the sea, the castle goes back to the sand and Miranda goes back to Mama, who wraps her arms and gives her a hug when it's time to go home.



Biscuit's First Beach Day

By Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Biscuit the dog is going on his first trip to the beach. He is excited about making sand castles, collecting seashells and playing in the ocean.

Sea, Sand, Me!

By Patricia Hubbell

Uncovering seashells...
jumping in the waves...
It's a perfect beach day!
And what better way to spend it
than with a new beach friend?

Patricia Hubbell's light verse skips merrily along, while the illustrator, Lisa Ernst, pictures playful scenes of a sea that is just waiting to be splashed in.



Franklin Goes to the Beach

By Paulette Bourgeois

Bright sunshine and a warm breeze-what a great day to go to the beach! This Franklin Activity book features 30 reusable stickers kids can use to help Franklin pack for his adventure, share a picnic lunch with his family and build a sandcastle by the shore.

To The Beach!

By Nadine Bernard

This sunny picture book puts a light-hearted spin on a day of family chaos. The harried but happy family leaves behind some seashore essentials and must backtrack home again and again. The surprise ending is sure to bring a smile.

Down by the Bay

By Raffi

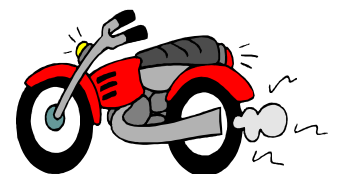
Down by the bay where the watermelons grow and other funny occurrences will keep the children laughing, singing and reading this book over and over.



Greeting from Sandy Beach

By Bob Graham

A seemingly doomed camping trip to the seashore turns into a sunny vacation in this wacky picture book. When the family reaches their campsite they find a gang of motorbikes called the Disciples of Death. Dad think this looks bleak and warns the children not to go near the bikers. The bikers' outward appearance proves to be misleading, as the bikers help Dad set up the tent, play in the sand and hand out raspberry popsicles. Dad learns a valuable lesson about not prejudging.



Let's Do Some Singing & Finger Plays

Fishy Pokey

(use the tune of the Hokey Pokey)
Put your left fin in, take your left fin out
You do the fishy pokey and turn yourself around, that's what it's all about
Put your right gill in, take your right gill out etc.



I'm a Little Fishy

(use the tune of I'm a little teapot)
I'm a little fishy, watch me swim
Here is my tail, here is my fin
When I want to have fun with my friends
I wiggle my tail and dive right in

Pretty Shells

(use the tune of Jingle Bells)
Pretty shells, pretty shells
Laying all around
What a lovely sight to see
Shells upon the ground.
Pick up one, it's good luck
Listen to the roar
Of the never ending waves
That beat upon the shore.

Five Little Fishies in the Sea

Five little fishies in the sea
teasing Mr. Sharky
You can't catch me, you can't catch me
Well along came Mr. Sharky (softly)
as quiet as can be
He snapped a fish right up out of the sea.
Four little fishies in the sea....
Three little fishies in the sea...
Two little fishies in the sea...
One little fishy in the sea
Teasing Mr. Sharky
you can't catch me, you can't catch me
Well along came Mr. Sharky (softly)
as quiet as can be
He snapped that fish up right out of the sea
Now Mr. Sharky is lonely can't you see



Mr. Lobster and Mrs. Crab

(use the tune Old MacDonald)
Mr. Lobster and Mrs. Crab
pinch and snap all day long
Mr. Lobster and Mrs. Crab
pinch and snap all day long
With a pinch pinch here and a snap
snap there here a pinch there a snap
Everywhere a pinch pinch snap snap
Mr. Lobster and Mrs. Crab pinch and
snap all day long.



Fish in the Sea

(use the tune Wheels on the Bus)
The fish in the sea go swim, swim,
swim, swim, swim, swim, swim, swim,
swim
The fish in the sea go swim, swim,
swim
All day long
The lobsters in the sea go pinch....
The octopus in the sea goes wiggle...
The crabs in the sea go click...

Sea Star

I saw an orange sea star
Sitting on the beach
She had five arms
With which to reach
She sat in the sun
All through the day
But when the tide came in
She swam away

Shells on the Seashore

(use the tune of Down by the Station)
Down at the seashore,
Early in the morning.
See the little shells
All along the shore.
See the great big
waves
Splashing on the shore.
When they pull back,
They leave some more.



Here Are Some Beach Snacks

Cool Fruit Shakes

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup ripe fruit
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
2 ice cubes
Blend in the blender until smooth.
You can add honey, vanilla or almond extract to taste. The recipe yields 12 ounces, a preschool child's serving is 3 to 4 ounces.

Beach Walk Snack

Pretend that you are walking on the beach and these are the things you find. In a large plastic bowl combine the following:
Pretzels (driftwood)
Fish-shaped crackers
Chocolate chips (beach pebbles)
Chow mein noodles (seaweed)
Cereal (life preservers)
Bits of dried fruit (shells & coral)

Boat Sandwiches

Crescent dinner rolls
Tuna or Chicken salad
Slice the tops off the rolls and hollow them out. Fill the rolls with your favorite salad.



(continued from page 1)

Create a beach in a bag. This activity teaches children about the beach and its inhabitants. It can also serve to refresh children during a stressful situation or as an imaginary field trip. You will need:

- Ziploc bag for each child
- Shaving cream
- Blue food coloring
- Seashells
- Small plastic fish, crabs, or seagulls

Allow each child to pour enough sand to cover the bottom of the Ziploc bag. Add seashells and plastic animals so that they can be seen from the outside of the bag. Squirt some shaving cream in the bag and add a few drops of blue food coloring. Close the bag. Allow the children to rub their fingers over the outside of the bag to mix the food coloring and shaving

cream to create foamy waves.

The bag can then be reopened to add additional beach inhabitants and then seal the bag with clear packing tape.



This activity teaches the children about the beach using most of their senses. They can smell the shaving cream, feel the sand, see the blue food coloring mixing with the shaving cream, and hear the rough sand rub against the plastic bag as well as the shaving cream squirts into the bag.

You could let the children taste gum-mie sea creatures to incorporate taste, too.

When doing this activity with your children, you can incorporate math by using measuring cups to pour the sand, and visual perception by asking, what colors/shapes do you see? To cover language arts ask the children to share some of their beach experiences and read books about the beach. For science, ask the children what kinds of animals live at the beach and what kind of weather do they have at the beach.

Another fun activity for your water table is to fill balloons with water and draw on fins and mouths. Give the children fishnets and see if they can catch the fish.

Relax and enjoy yourself!

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